











# Carrie Manning's Diary 1869

Edited by William Heidt, Jr.





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# Carrie Manning's Diary 1869

Edited by William Heidt, Jr.



Adapted for Junior Historians by

By Curtis Pfaff

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## Editorial Notes

Eighty-seven years ago Carrie L. Manning kept a diary for the year 1869. Although she never heard the word "teenager," she was one and living on a farm in the Town of Ithaca. She was 13 years old and a pupil of the district school.

Carrie had sisters Mary and Emma but no brothers. They were the children of Thompson and Caroline Drake Manning. Carrie's Grandfather Manning had cleared the farm early in the 1800's. Her father, born there in 1822, lived on it for eighty of his eighty-two years.

In 1881, Carrie's mother died and her father remarried. In 1902, he sold the farm to Franklin C. Cornell and moved to Bellmore, L. I., this wife's former home, where he died the next year. Today, the Manning homestead is known locally as the Cornell-Taylor Farm.

Carrie was faithful to her diary, for she made an entry each day of the year. She started the new year by recording "to Aunt Kate's" on the boat. Throughout her diary she records the day-by-day events in her life, innocent of thought of interest to us today.

As one reads the unaffected entries, surprise is raised by what she tells of the commonplace of her growing-up era. There is the day when she stayed out of school to "drop corn." When given some calico, she ironed it, cut quilt blocks and pieced them. She gathered nuts, her mother knitted socks and mittens,

and her father sold a pair of steers for \$160. But she doesn't mention airplanes, automobiles, radio, television—not even an electric toaster or corn popper! Nor are high school or college referred to.

Carrie tells of making Delicate Cake and Jell Cake, and she entrusted to her diary a list of ingredients of both, but she doesn't tell how to combine them. She knew how and assumed others did, too.

There are several references to compositions as a part of schoolwork of her day. One of these appearing after the cake recipe, was written by Carrie's older sister Mary.

Carrie was a sensitive little girl. Almost invariably she notes the weather; often she has "fun" and at times she is "lonesome." She has a coterie of friends, often stays overnight with one or another of them and plays dominoes or Old Maid.

While her grammar and punctuation are open to criticism, her spelling and penmanship are satisfactory. Once she recorded she led the spelling class. During one term, the teacher used the word "perfect" to indicate superior work by her pupils. Carrie's diary indicates she was "perfect" nearly every day; but she was honest: when she was "imperfect" that, too, went into the record.

Carrie's father often went to "mill." The mill was one of several essential to the economy of the day: saw-mill, carpet mill, cider mill, woolen mill, and gristmill. At the latter her father's rye, wheat, oats, corn and buckwheat were made into flour or meal for the family and feed for the livestock. Commercial milling was developing at that time: Pillsbury's mills started the year of Carrie's diary.

It will be noticed how often someone carried a message or brought a newspaper. They didn't have telephones then, for Dr. Bell didn't invent the telephone until 1879, and rural free delivery developed after 1900.



Much work was exchanged among farmers of Carrie's day: she doesn't mention wages at all. It is interesting to note how much borrowing was practiced—of nutmeg, crochet needles, the use of teams and tools, including a neighbor's sewing machine.

Carrie went to school behind an ox team one day when roads were drifted. Oxen were used to break snow-filled highways in preference to horse teams. When anyone went to town it was behind horse or ox, and the dirt roads might be dusty, muddy or snow-blocked, depending on the prevailing weather. The modern road system developed after advent of the automobile in the early years of this century.

Her father worked on the road, Carrie wrote. A taxpayer could choose between paying his road tax in money or in work on the road under the supervision of a pathmaster. Many farmers preferred to work on the road at a time when total cash income might not reach \$500.

While Carrie did her sewing by hand, it is to be noted that she made and repaired much of her own clothing and made quilts. The materials she mentions were calicoes, delaines and woolens. Her shoes were made to order, and she found them "nice and high."

The pedestrian Carrie's father saw in Ithaca on February 23, 1869, was Edward Payson Weston, who became world-famed. Born in Boston in 1839, he was a sickly youth who spent much time in walking to improve his health. He began long-distance walking in 1861 on a trip from Boston to Washington. Weston continued long-distance hiking until he was very old. He died in 1929.

Carrie's play on Dr. Burdick's name, writing it Burdock, has reference to the burdock used as a medicine in her time. So used were boneset, catnip, peppermint, wintergreen, pennyroyal and many other native herbs.



Apparently, she had learned, firsthand, how unpalatable burdock bitters were!

The gum that Uncle Jeff gave Carrie February 14 was "pitch gum" from the pine tree, which many older persons of today remember chewing—after it was boiled. The year that Carrie wrote, General Santa Ana of Mexico brought to New York City a collection of chicle. He hoped to find a market for it and recoup his fortune. He failed in his quest, but soon after Adams' Pepsin gum appeared on the market. Pioneers were extensive users of spruce, pine and hemlock gum as well as that of the American sweetgum tree.

In the entry of November 16, Carrie records that she held a candle while her father cut up one of the hogs slaughtered that day. There were no electric lights available to farms at that time and kerosene lamps and lanterns were not in general use. Drake drilled his successful petroleum well at Meadville, Pa., in 1856—the year Carrie was born. Many persons were fearful of the new illuminant, so candle were used long after kerosene became available and lamps and lanterns had been made safe.

In this connection, it should be kept in mind that rural people were conservative. Reluctant to make sudden changes in their ways as expressed in this maxim of the day: "Be not the first to adopt the new nor the last to discard the old." They were thrifty, too, and money was scarce. Candles and soap, for instance, were made at home, in spare time, with minimum expenditure of money and the full utilization of by-products that otherwise had little monetary value.

Carrie died January 1, 1875. She was buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery, and six years later her mother was buried beside her. At Carrie's death, her sister, Mary, took charge of the diary. When Mary died in 1898, it went to her daughter, Ruth, who later married George Bush.

Just before she died in 1955, Mrs. Bush sent Carrie's carefully preserved diary to this editor. Previously, it was agreed that the diary would be printed and made available to schools and that the original little book would be donated to the DeWitt Historical Society. This promise to Mrs. Bush has been gladly fulfilled.

Liberal excerpts from Carrie's diary make up this edition. They were selected as the most useful to junior historians. Curtis Pfaff, head of the Citizenship Education Department of the Ithaca High School, gave generously of his time in making the selections and preparing a junior historian's worksheet to accompany those volumes assigned to schools.

Ithaca, N. Y., March 22, 1956.

W.H.Jr.

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This is the third printing of Carrie's Diary. Since the first edition in 1956, many persons have asked the meaning of Maple Leaves. It was a child's monthly magazine, a modest one. There were no colors, no fancy cover, and the illustrations were woodcuts. It was printed on newsprint.

Ninety-one years after Carrie wrote, this editor was taken into the hills of Newfield to examine a collection of newspapers, books and magazines that had been collected by the Van Riper family. Strange as it may seem, a copy of Maple Leaves was found, but even stranger it is dated January, 1869—the month Carrie began her historic little diary! This rare copy is in the DeWitt Historical Museum, the gift of Mrs. John Leachtneauer, a member of the Van Riper family.

W.H.Jr.

Ithaca, N. Y., March 30, 1962.

# January

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1869

**Jan. 1.** New Year's Day. To Aunt Kate's on the boat. It was quite cold and snowed all day. Aunt Kate gave me some calicoes; I ironed them and cut them out and pieced some. Uncle John went up town and got Aunt Kate a breastpin, Em a locket, and me a little clock with a glass over it. They were all very nice.

**Jan. 2** Quite cold. Em and I went up street to Uncle John's. I cut some blocks. Frankie was real glad to see Em. Dari came down after us; the roads were drifted quite badly. Willie Bush was buried today. Pa came home tonight; he gave me a half-dollar and a quarter in silver. I pieced some blocks tonight. Saw Katie Raub up street. Had oysters for supper.

**Jan. 3.** It wasn't very cold. At home all day. Uncle Jeff was up here. Popped some corn. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight and Dari went down to Mr. Hinds's. Had some cider and apples. Today Mary looked at her calicoes. Tonight I fixed my things upstairs; had fire in the other room; I read some. I cannot think of anything more.

**Jan. 4.** The wind blew real hard; it thawed some. Em and I went to school; there were 12 scholars at school. Em stayed over at Mr. Labar's tonight. I pieced six blocks in the evening. I carried the wood in after I came



home from school. I wore Emma Brown's scarf home; it was real nice. I got a note from Maggie today. Uncle Daniel brought the horses tonight after we had gone to bed.

**Jan. 5.** Not very cold. Went to school; it was bad down the lane. I put some rubbers in my net. This morning Pa and Ma went up to Uncle Daniel's. Ma commenced one of my mittens. Dari went to town; he got The Journal. Em wasn't to school today. I stopped into Mrs. Labar's tonight a little while with Emma.

**Jan. 6.** Quite pleasant; thawed some this afternoon. I went to school; there were 14 scholars. Pa and Dari went to town. Rode downhill at recess and noon. I got my foot wet this morning. I popped some corn. Pa and Ma went over to Mr. Labar's to spend the evening. I didn't do anything but cut out blocks; Em crocheted Lyd's mittens.

**Jan. 7.** It was quite pleasant. I went to school; 14 scholars. Uncle Dan was here today. Pieced on my blocks. Pa and Dari played dominoes and I kept tally for them. Ma finished my mittens tonight. Pa and Dari went up to Mr. Brown's and down to the Hollow. Rode downhill; had lots of fun.

**Jan. 8.** Not very cold. Em and I went to school. Our folks cut straw and sawed wood. Pa and Dari went over to Labar's tonight. Uncle Jeff was up there. I took the binding off my apron and fixed it so it would set so. I popped some corn. This morning I played on the snowbanks to school. Mr. Hart, Mr. Knettles and George Bush called here today.

**Jan. 9.** It rained some this afternoon. At home. Our folks finished sawing wood. Iris was down here today. I pieced on my blocks and sewed up my shoes tonight. Em and I made cakes and iced them; they were real nice. I made a Delicate Cake. They played dominoes tonight. Ma knit on Ina's stocking. Em did up my hair in hairpins.

**Jan. 10.** At home. Snowed some. Ed Teeter and Bill Labar were here this morning. Uncle Bill's folks were down here today and Grandma came along with them. Pa and Ma went down to Mr. Hinds's tonight. Ma heard that Aunt Dorphia has a baby. I wrote a composition tonight and Em wrote a letter to Allie A—.

**Jan. 11.** Quite cold; snowed all day. I went to school. Pa, Ma, Mary and Dari went to town. Pa paid his tax: it was \$30.40. Got the paper, The Ithacan; did not get home until we had gone to bed. Mary exchanged her sleeve buttons and got a plain gold ring. I embroidered tonight. Em got a letter from Anna Marie.

**Jan. 12.** At home. Quite blustery and windy; the road was so drifted that we could not get to school. Em and I cut out a lot of blocks and pieced them. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's, and LeRoy said there were but four scholars at school. Ma knit Ina's stockings. Uncle Jeff was up here tonight and had his jew's-harp along; he played on it some.

**Jan. 13.** Pa's birthday—47 years old. Quite pleasant. Pa brought Em and me to school. Went home with Katie; had a splendid time. I pieced four blocks and Katie hemmed on her doll's chemise. Pa and Ma started to go over to Uncle George's but it was drifted so they could not get through. Pa came after Em; had his sor-rel team.

**Jan. 14.** Splendid day. Mrs. Raub brought us to school; had a nice time at noon and recess. Pa went to mill and came along at time school was out and we rode home with him. The thrashers were here tonight. I sorted out my calicoes tonight. Katie showed me her jockey. This morning was real pretty; 16 scholars.

**Jan. 15.** Not very pleasant. Em and I went to school; had a good time at noon. Our folks thrashed clover seed. I did some examples tonight; Em crocheted on the top of Lyd's mitten; Mary pieced on her Album quilt. Will Heggie stayed here all night. Read compo-



sitions and spoke pieces; 15 scholars at school. Not any more.

**Jan. 16.** Quite cold this forenoon, quite pleasant this afternoon. Em and I made Lemon Cake. Thrashed today. Em and I fixed my quilt and I began setting it together. Ret was up here this afternoon for a little while after some vinegar. Pa, Em and I went over to Mr. Labar's for a little while this evening; it was real light going over.

**Jan. 17.** At home all day; quite cold; snowed some this afternoon. Ed Bush, Edgar Labar and Uncle Jeff were up here a little while. Had hash for dinner. Mr. Hanshaw, Mrs. Hanshaw and Martha called here a little while towards night. Had some hickory nuts and walnuts today; had lemon cake and canned peaches for dinner.

**Jan. 18.** Not very cold. It snowed almost all day. Em and I went to school. Will Heggie came down to thrash this morning before we got through eating our breakfast. We rode with Amos McKenna this morning. Will spoke a piece. Tonight I sewed on my quilt; Mary pieced on her Album quilt. Dick made us some puzzles.

**Jan. 19.** It was not very cold. Em and I went to school; 13 scholars. Ma ironed. Mr. Millard's horse got over in the bunk. Toward morning we heard that Mr. Reuben Brown was dead and that Dr. Burdick and Mary Manning were very sick. I sewed on my quilt. Uncle Dan was down here for a little while tonight. Our folks finished thrashing.

**Jan. 20.** Quite cold; the wind blew; it snowed and drifted. Pa took Ma down to the boat to Aunt Katie's. Ma went up street and got me a pair of scissors; they are real nice. Emma D. came here tonight and stayed till 11 o'clock; she had started to go to Varna but backed out. Mr. Millard came over here and stayed all night; had fun with Em D.

**Jan. 21.** Not very cold. Pa took Em and me to

school; 19 scholars. When we got home our folks had gone away; they went over to Uncle George's; they haven't named the baby yet. They left the dishes for us to wash. I popped an ear of corn for Em and me after I got home from school. Pa and Dari played dominoes tonight; I sewed on my quilt.

Jan. 22. It was real cold. Em and I went to school; 13 scholars at school. Pa and Dari went to town. Florence Plummer was buried today. We saw the procession go by the schoolhouse; there weren't many sleighs and cutters. I sewed on my quilt tonight; they played dominoes. Em left her sewing at the schoolhouse, so she couldn't work on it.

Jan. 23. A very cold day but the sun shone. Pa, Dari, Emma and I went to town. I went down to Aunt Marie's and Emma went up to Uncle Jesse's. I got me a new pair of shoes and I got my Maple Leaves. Ma went down to Mrs. Hinds's for a little while this afternoon, and Pa and Dari went there tonight.

Jan. 24. At home; a very pleasant day. Pa, Ma and Mary went down to Uncle Charley's. Aunt Fannie sent Emma and me some cake and cheese; she sent her mittens up for Emma to crochet. They heard that Stroud Bush's girl was dead. Uncle Jeff was up here today. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's; he said Joan had come over. I wrote my composition and did my examples.

Jan. 25. A very cold day; it snowed some. Pa and Dari went up to Uncle Daniel's to thrash clover seed, and Pa came back and took Ma and Lyd to Hattie Bush's funeral. We saw the procession go by the schoolhouse; there were quite a good many. Ma washed. Emma and I went to school; there were 12 scholars. I sewed on my quilt tonight.

Jan. 26. Not very cold today. Emma and I went to school. Dari came home from Uncle Daniel's this morning. Pa went to town this afternoon and Mary went down to Mrs. Hinds's. Retta was up here this morning

and tonight. I sewed on my quilt tonight. Had a nice time today at noon and recess.

**Jan. 27.** It was very cold. Emma and I went to school. Pa went up to Mr. Sagar's after some rails. Mr. Raub, Mrs. Raub, Miss Warner, Katie and David were down here and stayed until 12 o'clock. Katie and I had a beautiful time; we had to sing and play the dulcimer. Miss Warner and Katie helped us. Susie Morris was at school today.

**Jan. 28.** Not very cold. Em and I went to school; there were 16 scholars. Pa and Dari drew rails. Had a lot of fun sliding on the ice. Pa and Ma went over to Mr. Labar's this evening; I wanted to go along but they wouldn't let me. Joan was there. I pieced on my quilt and wrote some verses for Katie. Mary and Dari played dominoes.

**Jan. 29.** It was not very cold. Em and I rode to school with Pa; he went to draw rails. He went to mill this afternoon. Had fun at noon—rode downhill. Uncle Jeff came up this afternoon, and tonight Retta was up here and stayed all night. Clella Egbert was at school today. It rained some tonight.

**Jan. 30.** It rained some but was not cold; toward night it began to get colder. Retta came up here after Ma to come down there—Aunt Hattie has got a new baby, born January 30th. A new cousin. Retta stayed all night. Pa went to Ithaca this afternoon; he got The Ithacan and The Democrat. Uncle Charley and Aunt Fanny called here, ate dinner and went to town.

**Jan. 31.** It was quite cold, stormy and blustery. Retta went home this morning. Pa, Ma, Aunt Fannie and I went up to Mr. A. O. Hart's; had a nice dinner. When we came back, Miss Warner came out to our gate and talked with us a little while. Saw Katie and Mrs. Raub. I did some examples tonight.



# February

1869

Feb. 1. It was quite cold. Dari took Em and me to school. Ma washed. Pa and Aug went up in Etna for a cow. We rode downhill and slid on the ice; had a lot of fun. Mr. and Mrs. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Manning, Emma and Willie were here tonight. Ma went down to Mrs. Hinds's for a little while this afternoon. Em broke my New Year's present.

Feb. 2. It was not very cold today. Emma and I went to school; there were 11 scholars. Pa and Dari went to town this afternoon; Dari did not come back. Mr. and Mrs. Egbert, Charley and Johnny came up here this afternoon and spent the evening. Em made a cake after she got home from school. Em B—, Katie and I slid on the ice at noon. I did some examples tonight.

Feb. 3. Not very cold. We went to school; 11 scholars. Pa went up in Dryden; I saw him go by the school-house at noon. Mary went down to Mrs. Hinds's to see the baby. I wrote the verse of Little Octaroon off for Emma tonight. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight; he heard that Tettie or Hattie was sick. J. was better today.

Feb. 4. A very stormy day; the lane drifted so we could not go to school, so we had to miss another day. I commenced for Ma a chair cushion and got quite a

good deal done on it; it is real pretty. Pa went down to see baby Doris. Popped a lot of corn this afternoon. Pa, Dari and Emma played dominoes.

**Feb. 5.** At home. It is still blowing and so, of course, we could not go to school again today. I tried to sew on my cushion but could not get it right. I looked at my blocks, and this afternoon I commenced me a pair of wristlets out of brown and red. Uncle Jeff came up here this afternoon; they played dominoes.

**Feb. 8.** It was quite cold. We went to school, rode with Pa and Ma; they went to town and took dinner at Aunt Marie's. School closed today and I was not sorry; she (teacher) gave them all a photograph. I got a real pretty one, and Em, too. We all went down to Mr. Campbell's this evening and had a very nice time; Mary stayed all night. Ma didn't wash.

**Feb. 9.** It was not very cold. Ma washed this forenoon. Em and I churned. Pa and Dari helped shovel out the new road. Mae Brown and Mr. Schuyler called here today. We all went up to Mr. Raub's tonight; had a real good time and a very nice supper. Mae and Mrs. Labar went along with us; Miss Warner came home with them. Katie played on the accordion; she played first rate.

**Feb. 11.** It is getting colder. Ma made applesauce. Mr. Egbert and Samuel Raub called here today. Pa traded his sorrel team away today to Mr. Raub for his team. Pa went to town this afternoon and Retta came up here; she had her piecework along. I sewed on my apron; I have got a brown-and-white plaid gingham. We went to Richard Manning's tonight; Richard Brown and his wife came down. I did not sew any hooks tonight.

**Feb. 12.** My birthday—13 years old. It was pleasant and thawed today. Pa and Dari went to the village today; took clover seed. Pa got a pair of quilting frames down at the Hollow. Dari did not come back. Pa hung



up his meat this afternoon and went down to Mr. Hinds's tonight. I finished binding my apron. Em and I played dominoes. Saw lots of folks go by here today.

**Feb. 14.** Not very pleasant; wind blew some. Uncle Jeff and Mrs. Hinds were up here this morning; Uncle Jeff gave me some gum. Mr. and Mrs. Hart and Johnny were down here a-visiting today; they had their little dog along with them. Dari came home tonight; he brought me a letter from Jennie; she wanted me to come down. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight. We cracked some hickory nuts.

**Feb. 15.** Not a very nice day. Ma washed this forenoon and Em and I churned. I sewed on my quilt and played dominoes. Ma put on a comforter this afternoon and she quilted some on it. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's. Uncle Jeff and Mr. H. were up here this afternoon; he gave us some gum. We boilt it and gave him some of it. Ma gave him some parsnips. Dari went away tonight.

**Feb. 16.** The wind blew and it snowed some today. LeRoy came over this morning for Dari to help thrash. Pa went to Ithaca; he saw the pedestrian, Mr. Weston. Ma got her comforter off this afternoon. I sewed five strips on my quilt. Played dominoes tonight; I got to laughing so I could not sew. Pa went up to Uncle Jesse's to eat dinner. Saw Frankie. Nothing more—bedtime.

**Feb. 17.** At home. It was quite pleasant. Pa went to town this afternoon; he took the calf down and got some solder to mend holes in tin. He mended a basin after her got home. He got Em and me a spool of white thread. I sewed on my quilt and Ma cut a lot of carpet rags in the afternoon. We played Old Maid. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's tonight.

**Feb. 20.** At home. It snowed and the wind blew all day. Pa went to town and rode up with Mr. McKinney; he stopped there and ate dinner. Maggie sent my picture and crochet needles home. Em and I sewed carpet

rag and this afternoon we commenced a four-square quilt; I pieced two blocks tonight. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's.

**Feb. 21.** Not very nice today; I was at home all day. Mr. Hinds came up this morning and pretty soon Retta came up; she stayed all day. Pa and Ma went up to Grandma's, and Emma went to see Sarah; she was not any better. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight. Nothing further. Poor Old Maids! Oh, something must be done!

**Feb. 22.** Washington's Birthday. A very cold day. Ma washed this forenoon. Pa and Dari went up to Richard Brown's to cut straw. I cut out a lot of blocks and pieced some; we have got 17 pieced. Played dominoes, too. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's tonight; he sent Ma two nice shingles. Em did up my hair on hairpins in front.

**Feb. 23.** Quite cold and stormy, and the wind blew tremendously. Mr. and Mrs. Labar and Lydia, Pa and Ma and I went up to Uncle Jesse Labar's. Charles and his wife were here, too. Aunt Joanne gave Em and me some calicoes and delaines; I pieced five blocks up there. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's tonight; LeRoy was up here this morning.

**Feb. 24.** At home. A very cold day. Pa, Ma and Em are going to stay in the village. Em is to stay down at Uncle Jesse's the rest of the week. Ma got Em and me delaine dresses and herself a calico one. Aunt Permeal sent us some celery. Pa went to Mr. Gerard's vendue from Ithaca. I commenced a tidy out of red yarn. Mr. Hinds came up here and borrowed some nutmeg. LeRoy was up here. Ma went up to Uncle Jesse's.

**Feb. 26.** At home; a very pleasant day. Pa went up to Daniel Bush's this morning and this afternoon he drew Mr. Hinds two loads of wood and went to the saw-mill. Dari went over and got Mr. Labar's reel and Ma reeled her carpet warp. Mary went down to Mr. Hinds's

this afternoon. I cut some blocks for the border of my delaine quilt. Mary Manning and Annie Price were over to Mr. Labar's today.

Feb. 27. Cold, and the wind blew. Pa went up to Charley and Johnny Tichenor's vendue, and I went up to see Sarah; she was a great deal better. Mrs. Manning's folks came there and the doctor just before we came home. Emma Bush came; she played some on the piano. George Brown called here tonight after Mary to go to a party but Ma would not let her go. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight.

Feb. 28. Quite a nice day. Pa, Ma and Em got almost ready to go down to Uncle Charley's when they came; Hobart was with them. Uncle Jeff was up here today; we wanted him to go down after Aunt Hattie and the baby but he would not. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight and said LeRoy had the scarlet fever. Aunt Tan gave Em some magazines to get bound.



# March

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1869

**Mar. 1.** First day of spring and quite nice. Ma washed this forenoon. Pa went over to Mr. Jule's and Dari went over to Uncle Robert's. Ma, Em and I went down to see John. I cut out some blocks. Richard, Cass, Em and Willie came up here tonight to go over to Mr. Labar's; LeRoy has scarlet fever, so we all went up to Mr. Morris's. Had a good time; I borrowed a book of magazines. Em and I churned. We saw the hearse go by; Daniel Teeter was buried today. Uncle Jeff was up here after some boneset for Aunt Hattie; she had a bad cold.

**Mar. 2.** Quite pleasant. I sewed on my border and sewed some carpet rags; we have 51 pounds sewed. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's and got some bags this afternoon; he went to mill, and tonight he went down to Mr. Hinds's. Mr. Egbert brought the wheel home this afternoon. Had a lot of fun tonight.

**Mar. 3.** A very pleasant day. Pa went to the village; he got some coconut for pies. Em and I sewed on the borders of my quilt. Retta came up here after some cider for her father. Ma ironed. We all went up to Richard Brown's tonight; Richard Manning's folks were there, too. I did not feel very well. Mary and Em swept upstairs this forenoon.

**Mar. 4.** A very stormy and blustery day. I am sick today. Pa went after the doctor this morning; did not find him at home and went again this afternoon; he sent me some medicine. President Grant took his seat today as President of the United States. Uncle Jeff came up here. Pa and Ma were invited to a turkey roast at Mr. Bouton's; I was sick, so they could not go.

**Mar. 5.** A very pleasant day. I am better; the doctor came to see me today and left some medicine. Pa went down to Dr. Burdick's (she spelled it Burdock and underscored the o) this afternoon. Mary went up to T. Gibbs's. Florence and Gena sent me some calico. Uncle Jeff came up here. They are going to have a roasted duck for tea. Pa went down to Mr. H.'s tonight. Dari came home. Ma and Em finished setting my quilt.

**Mar. 6.** It was real cold; wind blew like a hurricane. I lay in bed, but sat up this morning and tonight to have it made up. Pa went over to Amos McKinney's this morning, and this afternoon he went to town; he got me some candy and crackers. Ma made pies and Em made a cake. Mrs. Hinds was up here today. Dari went to town and didn't come back.

**Mar. 8.** Quite pleasant but it was cool. I got up and dressed for the first time since I have been sick. Ma washed this forenoon. Mr. Hinds was up here. Pa went down to the mill and took Ma's carpet to Mr. Barker's; Ma went along. Dari went over after Joan. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight. Uncle Jeff was up here this afternoon.

**Mar. 9.** It was very pleasant today. Joan is here a-sewing. I was out in the other room today. Pa went to town; he got a dress for Mary and some samples. Dari split some wood. Hulch moved away today. The skin began to peel off today.

**Mar. 10.** A rainy day. Joan is here sewing yet; she put ruffles on the waist and sleeves of my dress. I made me a pocket and worked some on perforated paper. Ma



made a coconut pie and some biscuits. We played Old Maids tonight.

**Mar. 12.** Quite pleasant today. Pa went to the mill and after he got back he took Joan home; she got through sewing. Aunt Hat came up here to get the skirt of her dress cut. Pa got some yeast over at Uncle Robert's. He went over to Mr. Labar's tonight; said Lydia was very sick. I made my girdle today.

**Mar. 13.** Pleasant today. Mr. Hinds was up here today. Dari went to town. Pa went up to Mr. Brown's after the horsepower, and he went to town and got me my Maple Leaves. Belia came up here for some nails, and Mary went home with her. Ret came home with Mary, and Pa went home with Ret. I pieced some on my blocks. Eugene Horton came over tonight and brought Em's cuffs home.

**Mar. 14.** A dreary, lonesome day. Mr. Hart called here after Pa to go over to Charley Bush's with him, and came back here and ate dinner. We had canned peaches for dinner; they were first rate. Em and I put on our new dresses; they looked good. I read some today. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight. Mr. Jack Ozmun's child was buried today.

**Mar. 15.** Very cold and stormy. Ma washed; got through at 10 o'clock. Em and I pressed our Four-Square quilt. Uncle Charley was here a little while and Mary went home with him to stay the rest of this week. Darius came home tonight with a black eye. Em slept with me downstairs tonight. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's. Pa cut straw. Got 12 eggs.

**Mar. 16.** A very nice, pleasant day. Mr. Hinds was up here this afternoon Pa went over to Mr. Kline's to cut straw. Dari went back to town this morning. I fixed my hoops, pieced blocks and embroidered some on my braiding. Mrs. Hinds, Aunt Hat and the baby came up here this afternoon; the baby was real good. Pa went up to Mr. Hanshaw's tonight. Got nine eggs.

Mar. 17. Pleasant today. Pa went up to Sam Brown's to help saw wood. Uncle John, Aunt Kate and Ina came up here to stay; they brought two trunks along. Uncle Daniel, Iris and Mr. McIntire called this afternoon. I curled Ina's hair after she came; looked real pretty. Got 10 eggs.

Mar. 18. It was a very nice day. I worked on my braiding. Em went down after Aunt Hat and the baby; they stayed all day. Mary and Libbie came over. Mary was piecing on a Half-Album quilt; she gave me the pattern. Libbie was a-braiding. Had a good time. Uncle John went to town. There was a boy here to hire out; he stayed all night. Uncle Jeff came up here tonight.

Mar. 21. It was quite pleasant but it was cold. Pa was down to Mr. Hinds's and he was up here. Mary went down there and Belia came home with her. Uncle John came back today. Darius came and ate dinner. Uncle Liew was up here tonight. I read some in a book I borrowed. Nothing more.

Mar. 22. Awful cold this forenoon but it was not so cold this afternoon. Ma washed this morning. Pa went to town; he got Ina some medicine for worms and he got a paper of needles. I made Ina a doll and some clothes for it. Ma and I did not feel very well tonight.

Mar. 23. It was quite pleasant. Uncle John went to town and took some butter down to Mr. Curran's. He got a pair of slippers for Aunt Kate. I commenced a pincushion but did not get it done. Pa went up to Uncle Dan's and down to Mr. Hinds's. Em went down to Mrs. Hinds's. We ironed today. Ina went to sleep this afternoon.

Mar. 24. It was not very nice today. I finished my cushion and made a hanging pocket. Pa was not very well; his throat was real sore. Uncle John went to Ithaca; Mary went down to Mrs. Hinds's. I commenced some trimming for my pillow cases.

**Mar. 25.** A very pleasant day. Ma worked the wool-en blankets this afternoon. Em went over to Jesse Bush's; she did not come back. Pa went to the mill. I went down to Mr. Hinds's this afternoon; Mr. Hinds gave me some candy. Ret came home with me and stayed a little while. I pieced five blocks. Bony was here today and got two glasses of cider; he gave me five cents. I popped some corn. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's; Uncle John went to town.

**Mar. 26.** Good Friday. A very windy and rainy day. Em did not come home today. Charles Labar was down here this morning, and Mr. Hinds brought up a turkey. I made a soda cake this forenoon and crocheted on my work. Pa and Uncle John went down to Mr. Hinds's.

**Mar. 27.** Not very pleasant. At home all day. LeRoy came over here this morning. Pa and Uncle John went to Ithaca. Our hired hand came home with them. A man brought Ma's clothesline here this afternoon. Em came home. Retta was up here this morning. I got a letter from Miss Warner; it was a first-rate letter. I finished my crochet work.

**Mar. 28.** Easter Sunday. It was real pleasant and lonesome. LeRoy came over here this morning after Pa to go over and doctor a sick cow, but she died. Mr. Hinds was up here tonight. I answered Miss Warner's letter today and Em wrote one to Mary Hollister.

**Mar. 29.** A very rainy day. I cut out some blocks and pieced 10 on my Honeycomb quilt. I have got to piece 25 yet. Ma washed; got through before 10 o'clock. Uncle John went to the village. Aunt Kate made Ina's doll a dress. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's.

**Mar. 30.** It is still raining. Pa went over to Mr. Harrison's to get his boat fixed. I cut out blocks and pieced nine on my Nine-Square. Em crocheted on her collar. Uncle John and Curtis played dominoes this afternoon.



Mar. 31. Well, the wind blew real hard today. Pa and Uncle John went to town and got Mary a pair of shoes. I finished the blocks for my Nine-Square quilt. Mr. Hinds was up today; Pa and Curtis went down there tonight. Retta was up here after some butter-milk.



# April

1869

**April 1.** April Fool's Day. A year ago today I was up to Philip Raub's. Pleasant. Pa, Ma, Em and I went to Ithaca, and it was the worst going I ever saw. Uncle John went up to his folks's. I commenced my Half-Album quilt today. Belle Teeter came here tonight after Mary to go to Ludlowville to a dance.

**April 2.** It was quite pleasant. Mary came home this morning while we were eating breakfast. I pieced seven blocks on my Honeycomb quilt. Uncle John went to town and got Aunt Kate a calico dress and me a spool of thread.

**April 3.** It was cold, stormy and windy. Em and I went over to Mr. Labar's and stayed almost all day. Mrs. Labar and Lydia gave me some calicoes to put in my quilt. I pieced nine blocks. Pa and Uncle John went to town. Pa got me a new calico dress; it was real pretty. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's tonight and got some fish. Pa and Uncle John sowed clover seed.

**April 4.** A very cold and stormy day. At home. Curtis started to go over to Mr. Cornell's but they had gone away. Mr. Hinds and Retta, Mr. Hart and Johnny, Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Savacool were here tonight. Pa went over to Mr. Labar's tonight. I got Ina to sleep this afternoon.

**April 5.** It was quite pleasant; Ma washed this forenoon. Pa, Uncle John, Mr. Hinds and Curtis sowed clover. I cut out some blocks and commenced to set my Nine-Square quilt; got nine blocks fixed. Ina went upstairs and slept with Mary.

**April 6.** Town Meeting Day. Very pleasant. Pa and Uncle John went to town; heard that Aunt Permealie had a little girl born Saturday night. Em and I fixed 16 blocks. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's tonight. Aunt Kate cut out Ina an apron this afternoon.

**April 7.** It snowed but was quite pleasant. Uncle John went away today. Pa and Curt were trimming up the peach trees. We got the blocks fixed and set two strips together. Played dominoes tonight.

**April 8.** Quite pleasant. We finished sewing the strips together and I laid it away. Pa went to the mill this afternoon and got Ma's carpet; it was awful nice. Uncle John went away again today. Em and I went up into the orchard a little while and saw Curt burn brush. Pa went down to Mr. Hinds's tonight.

**April 9.** Very pleasant, indeed. Em fixed her Half-Album quilt. I went over to Mrs. Kline's this afternoon; had a good time, and they gave me some calicoes. Mrs. Kline was a-quilting, and Tettie commenced a quilt like mine. We set them today. Curt hurt his foot.

**April 10.** It was quite pleasant. Pa went to town and Curt went home. Pa bought some maple sugar; it was real good. Em made a pincushion.

**April 12.** At Grandma's. Quite pleasant. Grandma sugared off; she made me five little cakes. Belle and Em came over this afternoon and I went over there and stayed a little while. Aunt Lib gave me muslin and calicoes. I cut out lots of blocks for my Nine-Square. Uncle Harris went to town.

**April 13.** A very nice day but it was quite cold. Em and I went over to Uncle George's to see the baby; it

was real pretty; I held him quite a good while. Aunt Dorphia gave me some calicoes. We took her some acorns and she sent Grandma some vegetable oysters. It was four years ago this spring since I was over there.

**April 14.** A very pleasant day. Grandma, Em and I went up to Aunt Lucinda's and stayed all day; had a real good visit. She gave me enough calico like her apron for two blocks. Grandma helped her sew carpet rags. Uncle Bill was over tonight. Had a good dinner and supper; first-rate, proper food.

**April 17.** It rained some this morning but the rest of the day was quite pleasant. The grass looked real green and nice. Em and I went over to Uncle Bill's this forenoon and this afternoon Em and Belle came over to Grandma's.

**April 18.** A very nice and pleasant day. Em and I came home from Grandma's with Uncle Bill, and L. came along. Folks here today were Uncle Bill and Aunt Lib, Belle, Willie, Grandma, Mr. Labar, Charley Rice, Theron Manning, Caleb Labar, Tom Tichenor, Bill and Mrs. Mortimer, Bill Labar, Ike Bush, Andrew Foster. Mary and Ina were up to G.'s Got 16 eggs and two turkey eggs.

**April 19.** It was awfully warm. Ma washed and I helped do up the work. Charley Price came up here this morning and got a cow. Pa and Curt plowed part of the meadow. Em and I went down to Mrs. Labar's for a little while this afternoon, and she came home with us to see the carpet. There was a real nice rainbow tonight.

**April 20.** A very windy day; tonight it rained real hard. Em and I went down cellar and sorted the apples out; took the apples out of the hole and washed them off. This afternoon Ma cleaned out the cellar and Em and I cleaned some of the dooryard.

**April 22.** Quite pleasant today. I sewed carpet rags



this forenoon and some this afternoon. Ma cut out my dress; I sewed it up all but two seams. LeRoy came over and exchanged a setting of eggs. I washed our new looking-glass off this morning. Got 15 eggs tonight. Heard that school commences Monday.

**April 24.** A very pleasant day. Uncle John went to town. Em and I made a lemon cake. This afternoon I cleaned my flower bed and helped Em clean hers out. Ma finished my dress all but the buttons, and Aunt Kate my apron; it was real nice.

**April 26.** A very pleasant day. School commenced today with 15 scholars. Miss Phillips is the teacher. I like her first rate. Aunt Kate's little girl was born tonight; weighed 10 pounds and a half. Mary, Em, I and Ina went over to Mr. Labar's and stayed all night. Mrs. Gibbs and Dr. Burdick were here tonight.

**April 27.** Pleasant, nice. We came home from Mr. Labar's this morning, and saw the baby; it has blue eyes and black hair. Em and I went to school; 15 scholars. John Hanshaw was down here tonight after some oats; Jay was along with him.

**April 28.** It was very nice. Em and I went to school; 15 scholars. Mr. Hinds came and made some garden. Uncle John went to town and got some crackers. Mrs. Picket came and washed for Aunt Kate. We played mossy today noon; had fun.

**April 29.** A very cold, windy day. We went to school; 15 scholars. Mrs. Labar was over this afternoon to see baby. I made some tatting tonight on my collar. Had fun today.

**April 30.** Quite pleasant. I went to school; 15 scholars. Uncle John went to town and got our seeds.



# May

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1869

May 1. Rainy. Pa and Curt took the steers down; weighed 1,100 pounds apiece; got \$160. I finished my collars and rocked Ina to sleep this afternoon. Ma sewed on her carpet.

May 3. Rained and snowed all day. Em and I went to school; 11 scholars; had a lot of fun today noon. I commenced a collar tonight; made three wheels on it. Baby three weeks old. Perfect.

May 4. Perfect. Quite pleasant, wind blew. Pa went to town; Em and I rode to school with him behind the oxen. Mrs. Picket came up today and washed. I made a pincushion for Kate tonight. Miss Phillips went to Mr. Labar's.

May 6. A very pleasant day. I took a rope to school and at noon and recess we jumped it; had lot of fun. We had a new scholar, Sara Harrison. I worked on my collar. Perfect.

May 7. Very nice and pleasant. Em and I went to school; had lot of fun jumping rope. Pa and Curt are plowing. Perfect.

May 8. At home all day. Very nice and pleasant. Mary came home tonight. Ma cut sun bonnets and sewed some on mine. I finished my collar. Weighed the baby: 11 pounds.

**May 9.** Very pleasant. Uncle Charley, Auntie and Fremy, Uncle George's folks, Mrs. Bloom and Grandma, Uncle Jeff and Aunt Hat, Johnny and Charley Price, Annie, Frankie and Lyd were here today. There were four little babies. Dari came after his trunk to-night. Turkey for dinner.

**May 10.** Very pleasant. We went to school. Em Brown, Katie and I went over to the graveyard today noon. The doctor called to see Aunt Kate. Perfect.

**May 12.** Very warm, pleasant. Em and I went to school. William Vandine buried today. There was a tin peddler here this afternoon. Perfect.

**May 13.** Wind blew real hard. Em and I went to school. Pa dragged his corn ground this afternoon. Stopped in to Mrs. Labar's for Lyd to stitch our ruffles. Perfect.

**May 15.** Quite pleasant this forenoon but this afternoon it rained. Pa, Em and I went to town. Had our photographs taken. The baby was real pretty.

**May 18.** Quite pleasant but a north wind blew cold. Did not go to school; had to stay home and drop corn. Mr. Labar and Mr. Picket helped. I was awfully tired when we got through.

**Mary 19.** Not very nice day. We went to school. Pa is planting corn in another field. I left off head in spelling class tonight. Perfect.

**May 20.** Quite pleasant. Em and I went to school. Went to Mr. Sharp's today noon for some pieplant. Stopped at Mrs. Labar's after ruffles for our silk bonnets; Lyd stitched them. Perfect.

**May 21.** Not very pleasant today; rained a little to-night. School let out before 4 o'clock; Miss Phillips's folks came after her. I brought Henry's book home to-night to read. Perfect.

**May 22.** Very nice day. I ironed some this afternoon. Ma, Em and I made flower beds; sowed all of our seeds. Pa went to mill and got rest of Ma's carpet.

**May 24.** Miss Phillips came home with us tonight. Pa went to town, got a letter for Ma from Mrs. Curran. Perfect.

**May 25.** Very warm, pleasant. Went to school; Katie and I went after a pail of water this forenoon. We heard the band play tonight; sounded real pretty. Perfect.

**May 26.** Pa and Curt worked on the road. Went to school; Katie and I made a playhouse today noon; had fun. Mrs. Labar gave me some dahlias.

**May 27.** Quite pleasant. There was a menagerie in town. I helped shake carpets tonight. Ma commenced cleaning house.

**May 28.** Not very pleasant. Took my blocks to school: pieced two. Em had hers. Katie gave me some birch. Perfect.

**May 31.** Quite pleasant. Went to school and played in the playhouse. I took my blocks to school and Katie had her tidy. Mr. McIntire was here today with his melodeon. Pa went to Danby for a load of lumber. Perfect.



# June

1869

**June 1.** Very pleasant today. Pa went to town; he got Ma's teeth. I pulled one of mine tonight. Ma is a-cleaning out the buttery today. Perfect.

**June 2.** A very nice day. Carpenters came to work on the barn; there were 24 men to move the old long stable. Ma put the carpet down in her bedroom; looked real good. Perfect.

**June 4.** Quite pleasant. Em and I went to school; this afternoon we cleaned the schoolhouse. Had a lot of fun; Katie and I cleaned together. Perfect.

**June 5.** At home. Pa wanted to raise the bent on his barn but it rained so he could not. Ma has rheumatism in her arm real bad; doctor came.

**June 6.** Quite pleasant but cool. Pa went after his hands to come tomorrow. I wrote Miss Warner and sent my photograph.

**June 7.** Em and I went to school; we wore our calico dresses. They raised the barn bent this afternoon; there were 48 men here today. I went after the cows tonight. Imperfect.

**June 8.** Very cold. I went to school; wore my Scotch plaid dress. Heard Rhoda Bush died this morning. Comfort Hanshaw's horse ran away; broke the wagon badly, didn't hurt them much.

**June 12.** Very warm, pleasant. Trimmed my jockey, fixed my shoes and cut out some blocks. This afternoon Em and I got a few wintergreens. I milked some tonight.

**June 14.** I fixed my love buttons over. Pa and Curt washed the sheep this afternoon. Perfect.

**June 15.** Miss Phillips came home with us tonight to embroider trimmings for me. Bony is here a-working today; played his fife—sounded pretty. Perfect.

**June 17.** Miss Phillips and all the scholars went into the woods today noon. I got a lot of wintergreens. Weeded my flower bed tonight and wet some of them. Perfect.

**June 19.** We all went to Ithaca this afternoon. Mary, Em and I got new dresses and Ma a new shawl. Mary and Em put the carpet down upstairs.

**June 21.** Set out some of my plants tonight; went after the cows and milked one.

**June 23.** Quite pleasant. Em and I went up to Mr. Morris's to take some books back that we had borrowed. Sheepshearers here today. Perfect.

**June 24.** Very pleasant. Pa went to town this afternoon and got his sugar. Perfect.

**June 25.** Went to school, came home at noon and went to town with Pa. At night, Jane, Em and I went to the closing exercises.

**June 27.** Had a very hard rain. At home all day; real lonesome. Mr. Hart came for the horses.

**June 28.** A very rainy day. Em and I did not go to school—it rained so hard. I made my doll a bonnet out of black lace and took the tucks out of my skirt.

# July

1869

**July 1.** Quite pleasant. I went to school, Em didn't go. Perfect.

**July 2.** Em and I went to school. We read and spoke pieces, read compositions, sang and had a nice time. Perfect.

**July 3.** Rained some this afternoon; was awful warm. Finished my doll's body, cut out its chemise and got it almost done. Em made two cakes and I iced them.

**July 4.** A very pleasant day—Fourth of July.

**July 5.** We went to school. Pa mowed some in the meadow this forenoon. Perfect.

**July 7.** Quite pleasant. Em and I picked some cherries. We went to school. Perfect.

**July 8.** Em and I went to school; Miss Phillips came with us tonight. Had bees swarm. Perfect.

**July 9.** Pa took us to school with oxen; rain ran over the road in places; Curt came for us. Got a card for being perfect all the week.

**July 10.** Quite warm. I picked almost 2 quarts of cherries, Curt picked about 8 quarts.

**July 14.** We all went to Daniel Bush's funeral; there were 37 wagons in the procession.

**July 16.** I went to school, Em didn't. Aunt Lavilla,



Sarah and cousin Frank Manning and her little boy from Illinois were here a-visiting today. Perfect.

**July 18.** Mary, Em and I went to prayer meeting; it was first rate.

**July 19..**I went to school. Mr. Pierson school commissioner, was there this forenoon. I milked tonight. Perfect.

**July 21.** We went to school. I finished my crochet work; picked enough cherries for a quart can. Perfect.

**July 23.** Hannah came this morning to sew on my dress, so I stayed home this forenoon but this afternoon I went. We read compositions and spoke pieces. School was let out for vacation. Perfect.

**July 25.** Mary, Em and I went to Sabbath school. Em and I went home with Em Manning, Mary with Rene. We stayed and went to prayer meeting. We wore our new dresses.

**July 26.** Quite pleasant but at night it rained awful hard. Ma washed. I pieced two blocks this afternoon and finished my collar. Pa commenced cutting wheat.

**July 27.** Joseph Snyder's wife was buried today. Em went to town with Mr. Hart this afternoon; she is to attend teachers' association.

**July 29.** I picked some cherries and pieced on blocks. They are working in the wheat. Year ago Lambert and Allie started for Iowa.

**July 30.** Very nice day. Em D. came here a-visiting; this afternoon we called on Mrs. Kline, Mrs. Picket and Mrs. Labar. Saw Annie and Frank and met Em D.; she came up and stayed a little while. I gave Em D. some slips off our plants. Mrs. Kline gave me a bead.

# August

1869

Aug. 1. Very pleasant. We all went up to Uncle Bill's. Em Drake, Belle, Mary, Em and I went to the Asbury Sunday school and meeting.

Aug. 2. School commenced; we went. Miss Phillips came over; Mary, Em and I went to see Ella Bush; she was a great deal better. Perfect.

Aug. 6. Quite cool. Em and I went to school. Pa went to town tonight and got us some peanuts. Em and I were swinging tonight; sang a good many pieces. Perfect.

Aug. 7. I made a cake, iced it and put candles on it. The eclipse of the sun was on tonight but it did not get very dark. I saw it.

Aug. 9. Jennie Bush's birthday; Grandma Drake 71 years old. We went to school. Ma washed. I had a little bonfire tonight; had fun. Perfect.

Aug. 11. Mary went up to Grandma's; she sent me a pear. Pa got a sheep at Uncle Charley's.

Aug. 12. The thrashers came this forenoon. Samantha came a-visiting; we went a piece with her and had fun. Bradford Snyder and Sarah Phillips came after Miss Phillips. Perfect.

Aug. 14. Pa, Mr. Hinds and Curt went down to help Richard Manning thrash. Samantha and Mary went to

Ella Bush's and Em went over to help Lyd quilt. Jennie and Nora Stamp came over this afternoon; Jennie braided my hair. We got a letter from Aunt Julia in California.

**Aug. 18.** Em and I went down to the Inlet and went on Aunt Hat's boat. After Rett got her work done, we sat amidship. It was nice and cool there. At night we went to Aunt Kate's by Mr. Linderberry's drydock; stayed there all night.

**Aug. 19.** It has been about the warmest day we have had this summer. I curled Ina's hair; looked real good. We stayed 'til 3 o'clock, then started home. Saw Lyd; she said there was no more school this week.

**Aug. 22.** Em and I went to the Varna meeting; we stopped for Katie but she wasn't well, so we went with Vina. Heard Lambert Bishop was dead.

**Aug. 23.** Ma washed this forenoon. When she got through, she, Em and I went to Lambert Bishop's funeral; lots of folks there.

**Aug. 24.** Em went over to Aunt Sally's after some yeast. I ironed some this afternoon, then Em and I made a Picnic cake and iced it.

**Aug. 25.** Mary, Em and I stopped for Vina and Em, then went to the picinc. Met at the meeting house and went down in loads to the woods. It rained a little. Curt went to a dance.

**Aug. 27.** This afternoon I raised a hickory tree. Pa and Curt are plowing.

**Aug. 28.** Pa and Mary went to town. Mary got my parasol fixed. Pa got some peaches and I got two of my Maple Leaves. This afternoon I helped scrub, then had to pick beans.

**Aug. 30.** Em and I went to school; it commenced again. Miss Phillips came over tonight.

**Aug. 31.** We went to school today. Stopped in the orchard and Mrs. Kline gave us some apples. Em and I picked beans tonight. Perfect.



# September

1869

Sept. 1. Em and I went to school. I went down to Mrs. Labar's with Katie today noon; she took a pattern down. I wore my shawl today—first day of September and cold enough to freeze. Perfect.

Sept. 2. Awful cold today. [Matthew 7:11 is quoted and the names of Loise and Carrie follow.]

Sept. 3. Quite pleasant. Em and I went to school; we went to Uncle Robert's for some strawberry plants. Perfect.

Sept. 5. Mary and I went to Sabbath school. Em and I went over tonight but the preacher did not come, so there was no meeting.

Sept. 6. Pa drilled his wheat today. I got some ripe peaches. Em and I wrote our compositions. Perfect.

Sept. 7. School closed today; three visitors. It made my arms ache to carry my books.

Sept. 8. Em and I did the ironing today—all but two or three pieces. I cut out two pairs of cuffs.

Sept. 11. Hobart came up here today while the folks went to the State Fair. I went after the cows and milked one. Dari stopped here tonight. No more.

Sept. 12. I dressed Hoby and myself, then read some. Uncle Jesse, Franky and Jimmy Owens of Elmira called. Mary went up to McLean to camp meeting.

Sept. 15. Loise E. Warner's birthday. Quite pleas-

ant. We peeled peaches again today. I crocheted on my doll's breakfast shawl. We gathered some of our popping corn. Pa and Curt drew straw.

**Sept. 16.** Peeled peaches this afternoon. Pa got Hoby a little cart; he finished drawing his straw.

**Sept. 18.** Curt peeled a bushel of apples and we cored them. Pa got 8 knives.

**Sept. 20.** Emma's birthday—17 years old. We peeled peaches and some pears. Pa drew away some of his wheat. Aunt Fran came up for some fruit; she drove for herself. Curt peeled a half-bushel of apples and cored them.

**Sept. 22.** Em and I shelled beans; we had a bushel and a half when cleaned. Curt sent his dog and peaches home. Peeled peaches again today.

**Sept. 23.** This afternoon Mr. Labar, Em and I went after elderberries; we got a good many. We played Old Maids this evening.

**Sept. 24.** Mary and Em went up to Mrs. Hanshaw's and Martha took them to the picnic at Varna. Pa and I got ready and went to the "picnic," too; had a lot of nice things when we got back. Pa went after the thrashers, Em went over to Uncle George's—and that was the end of that day.

**Sept. 25.** Pa went to town and got some sweet potatoes. We peeled and cored apples.

**Sept. 26.** Rained all day; was very lonesome. Mr. Rierson of Ithaca was here and got a pig. Martha sent Em a slip of coral plant.

**Sept. 27.** John Labar came for a pig. Em and I peeled and cored some apples. Ma made ketchup.

**Sept. 28.** Em and I "wrensed" the clothes and hung them up; this afternoon we ironed some of them. A man came here who wanted us to buy a sewing machine, but we did not.

# October

1869

Oct. 1. A very pleasant day. We all went down street to see the circus come in, but it did not "mount" to anything.

Oct. 2. Mother's birthday—48 years old. The Lansing folks had a picnic; we were invited but did not go. We saw them go and come back; they waved handkerchiefs, parasols. Rained tonight.

Oct. 5. Quite cold. Made a house of perforated paper; it was real nice. Dari here for a little while this afternoon: he popped some corn. Ithaca Fair commenced but was put off until next week.

Oct. 6. Pa, Mary, Em and I went to town; we got our feet measured. There was a man here from Massachusetts to look at Pa's horses; he stayed all night. Cored apples; got tired and sleepy, too.

Oct. 7. Cut out my apron this forenoon. Pa, Em and I went up into the orchard and got almost 3 bushels of apples. Dryden Fair commenced.

Oct. 8. Curt got a livery rig and took Martha Hanshaw to the Dryden Fair. Pa went to town and got a box of raisins. Em and I cored a bushel and a half of apples.

Oct. 10. Mr. Pease came, stayed all night and bought Pa's horses.



Oct. 11. Mary and I "wrensed" and hung the clothes up. The thrashing machine came tonight. Curt and Jesse went down to Mr. Campbell's to cut buckwheat.

Oct. 12. It rained; they could not thrash. Pa went over to school meeting; they put him in as trustee.

Oct. 14. Very nice; first day of Ithaca Fair. Pa, Mr. Jones and Curtis went to help Richard Manning thrash. There was a school teacher here but he didn't hire out. I sewed on my apron.

Oct. 15. Picked ripest grapes; Em and I laid some away. This afternoon Pa, Mary and I went to the Fair; saw many I knew; had introductions to Miss Hanshaw, Miss Terpenning, Miss Willy and another girl.

Oct. 16. Two school teachers here; could not tell if he hired. Tet and Hat gave me a mock gourd.

Oct. 17. Ma and Em took the horse and wagon and went over to take Grandma some grapes, apples and pears. I washed the dishes, milked a cow.

Oct. 19. Snowed. Ma washed the windows; Em and I washed all the paint. Mr. Baker came tonight to let Pa know he was going to take the school.

Oct. 23. Wiped the dishes and helped put carpet under the stove. Pulled beets, cut tops off—had bushel. After dinner Em and I cut tops off the carrots—had 4 bushels. Went into the fields, got 2 bushels of hickory nuts, 2 quarts H— apples.

Oct. 24. James Baker, Enfield, N. Y., teacher.

Oct. 25. I held some bags this morning. Jesse Owens, wife and little girl, Minnie, of Chemung; Uncle Dan and Aunt Elvie, Uncle Jesse Labar and Aunt spent the evening here; we had a first-rate time.

Oct. 27. About two inches of snow; looked like winter. Held 36 bags, nearly froze to death. Snowed hard. Pa made a halter.

Oct. 29. This afternoon I pulled away oats. Em and I held bags; had fun. Jimmy made us a planchette tonight.

# November

1869

**Nov. 1.** Not very cold. Pa shook a hickory nut tree; got quite a good many. Commenced gathering winter apples.

**Nov. 2.** Election Day. Picked cider apples. Pa and I went to town; saw Miss Phillips and Sarah.

**Nov. 3.** Ed Deyo came to work; they drew in clover seed this forenoon. Got some hickory nuts.

**Nov. 8.** Workhands came back but didn't go to work until noon. Pa went down with a load of oats and got our shoes; they are real nice and high. Pa got some yarn for my hood.

**Nov. 9.** I pulled away oats; Pa took a load of oats down, got a wood box. I finished my hood.

**Nov. 11.** We gathered the cabbage. There was a tin peddler here. Ma sold a sheep pelt and got three bake tins. Em and I sold some old iron and got seven individual salt cellars and thirteen clothes pins. Peeled and cored apples.

**Nov. 13.** I made a cake. Pa, Ma and Em went to town and got a dinner basket for us.

**Nov. 15.** School commenced today. Mr. Baker is the teacher; 15 scholars. He came over to our house tonight. I worked on my basket.

**Nov. 16.** Killed three hogs today. Pa cut one up tonight; I held the candle for him.

Nov. 17. Pa went to town and got some coal, a dipper and some chalk for the school.

Nov. 18. Thanksgiving Day. We went to school.

Nov. 19. Mrs. Gibbs was buried this afternoon; the funeral was held at Asbury Church; it was full; they felt very bad. We did not go to school.

Nov. 20. Pa, Mary and I went to town. Pa got me a dress and shawl; both are very nice.

Nov. 22. I washed the dishes and carried in the wood. Pa went after Miss Baldwin to sew for us.

Nov. 25. Real cold. We went to school; had a lot of fun today noon, playing barering. Pa and Ed went up to Uncle Dan's to help saw wood.

Nov. 28. Em and I went over to Mrs. Kline's and took their hoods; she thought they were very nice. She showed us her gold watch and chain.

Nov. 29. Pa drew some wood to the schoolhouse. I commenced a pair of wristlets tonight.

Nov. 30. Rained all day. We went to school and had to come home in the rain.



# December

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1869

**Dec. 1.** Quite cold. We went to school. Miss Baldwin came this afternoon; she put the Scotch plaid on tonight. I finished my wristlets.

**Dec. 2.** Did not go to school until almost noon. Miss Baldwin finished my dress; looks real nice.

**Dec. 6.** Snowed almost all day. We went to school. Ma washed. I commenced a pair of wristlets. Em came home at recess this afternoon.

**Dec. 7.** Pa took Em and me to school in a cutter, and he took Miss Baldwin home this afternoon. Had fun today noon.

**Dec. 8.** Pa went to the Hollow and Em and I rode to school with him. This afternoon Pa and Mary went to town; he got some ink, and a letter from Mr. Pease.

**Dec. 9.** Pa went to town after some coal for the schoolhouse. Pa and Mr. McKinney fixed the coal bin and then came in.

**Dec. 10.** I knit on my wristlets tonight and Pa fixed his mittens. Mr. Hanshaw brought the oxen home. Katie told me that Martha Dodge was to be buried tomorrow.

**Dec. 11.** Martha buried today; we did not go to the funeral. Pa paid his tax: \$37. I put flowers on the table. Pa went to Charles Labar's for his steers.

**Dec. 13.** Pa killed hogs; Mr. Sharp and George helped. Pa went to town; we rode home with him.

**Dec. 16.** There was a donation at the church in Varna and a dance at the tavern at Warren Ellis's. Mary went. We went to school and came home in the rain.

**Dec. 17.** Stuffed sausage tonight.

**Dec. 18.** Fixed my dress this afternoon and sewed buttons on my nightgown; fixed my waterproof and scarf. Snowed real hard.

**Dec. 20.** Pa took Em and me to school in the cutter; 11 scholars. Quite lonesome; wrote Em a note. Wrote my composition tonight.

**Dec. 22.** It rained all forenoon; spoiled our sleighing. The going was so bad Pa had to come after us. I cut out some blocks.

**Dec. 23.** I did not go to school but Em did. Pa, Em and I went to town; I got a diary. Went in and saw Old Santa Claus. Heard that Miss Warner had married Dr. Peck of Washington.

**Dec. 24.** We went to school; read compositions and spoke pieces. School was let out early. Christmas Eve.

**Dec. 25.** Christmas; not very cold. We all went down to Uncle Charley's for dinner; had a very nice time. Jackson Ozmun and lady, George Teeter, Tild and Grandma here. I got a gold pin, knife, bottle of perfumery, handkerchief and some candy.

**Dec. 26.** Mary's birthday—20 years old. It rained some. I cracked hickory nuts. We had ice cream; it was real good, I bet.

**Dec. 28.** Pa took us to school—it was awful muddy, perfectly ridiculous—and came after us. I commenced a chair cushion, pieced two Log Cabin blocks. Pa played the jew's-harp.

**Dec. 30.** I went to school. Pa and Ma went down to Mr. Campbell's for a turkey roast; they sent us some turkey and cake. Emma Brown came home with me to-

night, Mr. Baker came over and Theron Morris came down. Had a first-rate time; it was after 11 o'clock when we went to bed.

**Dec. 31.** Real pleasant; I went to school. It is the last day I will go to school this year. Mr. Pierson called at the school this forenoon. Pa got some fish of a fish peddler. Mary went to a dance to Moravia.

### DELICATE CAKE

1 cup white sugar	2¼ cups flour
1 cup sweet milk	1 teaspoon soda
½ cup butter	2 tsps. cream of tartar
3 egg whites	1 tsp. lemon

### JELL CAKE

2 cups sugar	¾ cup butter
2 cups flour	3 eggs
2 tsps. cream of tartar	1 nutmeg
1 teaspoon of soda dissolved in a cup of sweet milk	

The following composition was written by Carrie's older sister Mary. It is printed here exactly as it appears in Mary's handwriting. It is undated but marked Composition No. 1. This little manuscript is on file with Carrie's original diary.

### THE WORLD

This world is all abubble, this is a very true saying, Made up of wind air and water the three most important and essential things that keeps us poor mortals alive. Tis true we are all placed here for some good and we all have a task allotted to us to perform. To some of us it is very hard to endure while others go on perfectly free and easy have all and something more than heart can wish or desire, while others have hardly enough to sustain life and for this they labor very hard, Why there is a wide difference in the dissensa-



tion of these gifts is probly for our good in the end still we cannot see why it is, and as rational and inteligent beings ever dissatisfied with our lot, We are always looking from and for something greater and never satisfied with the present, how important it is that we should consider the beauty of our existence while here on earth. It ought to remind us that we should improve our time.

MARY J. MANNING.

Composition No. 1.

### THOMPSON MANNING FAMILY

This family resided on what came to be known as the Cornell-Taylor farm in the Town of Ithaca. His father cleared the land which was on Lot 89 in the original Town of Ulysses. Born there, Thompson Manning spent 80 years on the farm. He sold it to Franklin C. Cornell in 1902 and moved to Bellmore, L. I., former home of his second wife, Lucena. He died there in 1903.

Thompson Manning	m Caroline L. Drake
b Jan. 13, 1822	b Oct. 2, 1821
d April 30, 1903	d Feb. 15, 1881

#### Children

Mary J. (twin)	Emma
b Dec. 26, 1849	b Sept. 20, 1852
m Lafayette Teeter	m William Cady
d 1898	d Feb. 3, 1948
Sarah (twin)	Carrie L.
b Dec. 26, 1849	b Dec. 12, 1856
d an infant	d Jan. 21, 1875

### LAFAYETTE TEETER FAMILY

Lafayette Teeter	m Mary L. Manning
b Dec. 9, 1848	(Nov. 26, 1870)
d 1896	

#### Children

Chloe	Mark
b Sept. 8, 1872	b Jan. 7, 1880
m William Brown	d Dec. 21, 1901
d 1954	Myrtle
Ruth	b Oct. —, 1883
b Nov. 16, 1874	m Maurice Hover
m George Bush	Starr
d June 6, 1955	b Sept. 3, 1885
Carmi	d ca. 1957
b Dec. 19, 1876	Rose
d 1915	b Oct. 5, 1890
	m Harry Kelly

### GEORGE BUSH FAMILY

George Bush  
b Dec. 25, 1871  
d May 24, 1944

m Ruth Teeter  
(Nov. 27, 1899)

#### Children

Esther  
b June 23, 1911  
m Fred Button

### FRED BUTTON FAMILY

Fred Button  
b

m Esther Bush  
(Sept. 7, 1938)

#### Children

Elaine  
b July 2, 1939

Arletta  
b Oct. 29, 1946

### WILLIAM CADY FAMILY

William H. Cady  
b June 28, 1852  
d Sept. 12, 1924

m Emma Manning

#### Children

Carolyn E.  
b Aug. 5, 1887  
d May 23, 1951

## Junior Historian's Worksheet

Adapted for Junior Historians by

By Curtis Pfaff

Based on Carrie Manning's Diary of 1869

### **Activities**

Check in Carrie's school attendance to determine at what seasons school was in session and the number of days.

Two or three students might obtain a set of dominoes and demonstrate some games. A club might be organized to play such games as dominoes, parchesi, flinch, Old Maids.

Consult newspapers or store account books of around 1869. Prices will indicate about what the taxes of \$30.43 her father paid would be equal to now. (Papers, records at DeWitt Museum).

Obtain a Jew's-harp, learn to play a simple tune or two. This might apply to a dulcimer, accordion, zither or melodeon. (Melodeon in DeWitt Museum).

Point out some events Carrie observed that made an impression on her. Explain.

Select a topic and make some research through old Tompkins County newspapers and records for a talk on some aspect of the early history of the county, your town or community. (Consult collections in DeWitt Museum).

Study pictures of early Ithaca and villages to determine how they appeared. Try to find some of 1869. (Consult DeWitt Museum for pictures; see collection for many articles in use then).

Some older residents of your community may sew carpet rags. Ask them to demonstrate and tell you about the making of rag carpets, and then examine the Museum's loom.

An interesting experience for girls especially: From designs illustrated in old magazines, make quilt blocks like Carrie made. Some older residents will assist and perhaps demonstrate quilting. Some junior historians may elect to do quilting as a project; workshop students could make a set of quilting frames; those in the Museum will provide a pattern.

An interesting history project could be developed in tracing families mentioned in Carrie's diary and learning which are still represented in the county.

How did Carrie's social life compare with yours? Make a list of her social activities and another of yours, then compare them.

Do the same for her work responsibilities and yours to determine if she had more or less work than you. Compare the types of work.

What social activities were available to her parents? Compare them with those of your parents; give reasons for the differences.

Trace some of the place names mentioned in the diary to determine which have disappeared or whose significance has changed. Endeavor to find a reason in each instance. (See Origin of Place Names in Tompkins County, available at DeWitt Society office).

Make a map of the neighborhood in which Carrie and her friends lived, and trace routes they traveled to places she mentions. (Study 1853 map of Tompkins County in DeWitt Museum. Names of property owners are printed on it; you will find her father's and learn where she lived. You may wish to drive past the farm).

What is the background of these fairs: State, Tompkins County, Dryden, Trumansburg? What made the early fairs successful? What did the early residents make of Fair Days?

Did you ever see a yoke of oxen? Study a picture of an ox team and discuss oxen with older residents to learn: why called "poor man's team"; why preferred to horses for breaking drifted roads and clearing the land; why called "yoke."

Terms to investigate: jockey, tidy, quilting frames, delaines, vendue, pieplant, melodeon, a bent, love buttons, camp meeting, planchette, cutter.

Organize a committee of junior historians to write a dramatization of "A Day with Carrie Manning" or "An Evening with Carrie and Her Friends," or a similar theme. Produce and present it before other groups, and perhaps, at Farm-Home Week. (DeWitt



Museum has period material to impart authenticity to settings and costumes).

Examine textbooks of the time Carrie was in school and compare with yours. (See collection in DeWitt Museum).

Endeavor to find out what Carrie meant by Maple Leaves. Why do you think it meant so much to her?

Explain why she put quotation marks around "wrense" and "mount."

## ***Some Things To Think About***

Jan. 2. Does Carrie's supper sound strange to you? Why?

Jan. 3. What do you suppose she meant by "a fire in the other room"?

Feb. 8. How far advanced was the science of photography at this time? What photographer did so much during the Civil War to make it still more scientific? Do you suppose the photograph Carrie mentions was similar to those you know? (See early photographs in the DeWitt Museum).

Mar. 1. Why do you suppose Carrie considers this the first day of spring?

Mar. 2. Where did the coconut originate and in what form was it when her mother got it?

Mar. 3. Why was Carrie interested in the number of eggs produced? Did you ever hear of eggs being a source of "pin money"? What is it?

April 2 and 5. Is clover seed now sown so early in the season? Was clover an important crop in the county then? (See files of early American Agriculturist in DeWitt Museum).

April 6. What did Carrie mean by town meeting? Of what importance to the people?

April 12. Have you helped in "sugaring off"? How is it done? Can you give reasons why it was important in the rural economy of her time?

April 13. Does Carrie mean three vegetables or was there a plant known as vegetable oyster? Do we have it today?

April 20. Where and how do you suppose these apples had been kept?

April 22. Why would LeRoy exchange a setting of eggs? Where might he have learned of this principle? Was poultry raising then based on science? What part did the county play in its development? Name some early leaders.

May 1. Is 1,100 pounds a good weight for a steer? What price per pound did they bring? Today's price may be computed from the Buffalo market report in The Ithaca Journal.

May 4. What advantages did an ox team possess over a horse team? What of horses over oxen?

June 5. What is a "bent" in a barn? How constructed and with what tools? Examine an old barn.

June 14. Do you recognize the name Hanshaw today? In what connection?

July 4. Why didn't they have fireworks today?

July 15. What means of travel did the relatives probably use in coming from Illinois? What historic event in railroad building took place in Utah the year that Carrie wrote her diary?

July 26. Is this the usual time for cutting wheat in this county? What kind was it and how used?

July 31. Who was Miss Phillips?

Aug. 2. How long had the school vacation been and how long did the new session last?

Aug. 7. Give reasons that may have led Carrie to record the eclipse.

Aug. 14. Compute the time it may have taken the letter to come from California then and today.

Sept. 6. Explain what type of wheat this was. Note what fruit was ripening.

Sept. 22. Comment on the type of these beans, Carrie's method of shelling and today's.

Sept. 28. Tell when the sewing machine was invented and discuss the Civil War's effect on its development. (Early models in DeWitt Museum).

Oct. 14. Give a reason why the teacher went to the Manning home.

Oct. 23. What kind of work was Carrie doing when she "held 36 bags"?

Nov. 8. How long did it take the cobbler to make the shoes? Explain what work a cobbler did. What did Carrie mean by "working on perforated paper"? Have you ever done it or seen it done?

Nov. 15. Suggest a reason for the long vacation at this season.

Nov. 19. Endeavor to learn the history of this church.

Nov. 25. Try to find what kind of a game "barering" is and how played. The editor doesn't know.

Dec. 1. What is Miss Baldwin's occupation?

Dec. 3. Explain why Miss Baldwin went over to Mrs. Kline's to get Em's ruffles stitched.

Dec. 6. Describe how Mrs. Manning did her washing and ironing.

Dec. 17. What did Carrie mean by "stuffed sausage tonight"? (See sausage stuffers in DeWitt Museum).

Dec. 22. Who was Mr. Baker, what profession did he enter and where did he locate? (See Landmark's of Tompkins County in DeWitt Museum).

Dec. 25. Do you think Carrie's pin was real gold? Explain.

Since Carrie wrote several compositions, it is suggested you write one to summarize your reactions to the customs of her day. Say what interested you and why, and what you learned about local history from Carrie Manning's Diary.





















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